Reservation for Backward Classes

@2421. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to amend job quota order, providing for 27 per cent job reservation for the backward classes, to exclude the creamy layer; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The OM of 13-8-1990 providing for reservation of 27% in civil services and posts under the Government of India for the Other Backward Classes is proposed to be amended in the light of recommendations contained in the Report of the Expert Committee which has already been tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 16-3-1993.

Wakf Amendment Bill

2422. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 651 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1993 and state by when a bill is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament incorporating amendment to the Wakf Act, 1954?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): A Bill to amend the Wakf Act 1954 and the Wakf (A) Act, 1984 is likely to be introduced during the current session of the Parliament.

Dr. Ambedkar National Award

2423. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Foundation has announced award for rendering service to down-trodden and backward class people for the last year, if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) if not, when the announcement is likely to be made; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Vivekananda Medical Hospital in Wynad District of Kerala rendering service to tribals was recommended for Dr. Ambedkar Foundation Award; if so, what has been the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation has invited nominations for Dr. Ambedkar National Award 1992. The Award has been instituted by the Government of India to be presented to individuals for having made outstanding contributions in promoting social understanding and in the upliftment of the weaker sections in India. The selection will be made on the basis of:

(i) Contributions to a mass movement which have made considerable impact on the quality of life of the weaker sections of the society and have been widely recognised; and

(ii) A written work that has been published, and had helped to improve, conscientize and awaken the weaker sections of the society.

(c) Yes, Sir. All the eligible nominations including the Vivekananda Medical Hospital in Wynad District of Kerala are being processed for selection by the Jury.

Bill on Discrimination against the Handicapped

2424. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 81 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th April, 1993 and state by when the Bill on discrimination against the handicapped in society is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): The introduction of a "Legislation providing for Rights and Safeguards to Handicapped Persons" is under consideration of the Government.

Expansion of National Rehabilitation Training Institutes

2425. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the four national rehabilitation training institutes for the handicapped; and

---

@Previously Unstarred Question 1496, transferred from the 5th August, 1993.